

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A disposable shoe liner comprising:

a laminate structure shaped to approximate the contours of a foot,  
said laminate structure comprising a first substrate containing a  
thermoplastic polymer and a second substrate containing a thermoplastic  
polymer, wherein the thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate is fused  
together with the thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form  
fused portions and unfused portions located between said fused portions,  
said unfused portions defining pockets containing discrete regions of a  
functional material that is capable of providing comfort to the foot of a  
user.

2. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
functional material contains particles.

3. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
functional material has a hardness that is greater than the hardness of  
said first substrate and said second substrate.

4. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
functional material contains a fragrance, an odor absorbent, a liquid  
absorbent, a germicidal material, or mixtures thereof.

5. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
functional material contains an odor absorbent.

6. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 4, wherein said odor  
absorbent includes activated carbon granules.

7. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein at least  
one of said substrates contains a material selected from the group  
consisting of nonwoven webs, films, and combinations thereof.

8. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein at least  
one of said substrates contains an elastomeric component.

9. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 1, wherein the  
functional material contained within a first group of said pockets have a

packing density that is greater than the packing density of a functional material contained within a second group of said pockets.

10. A disposable shoe liner comprising:

a laminate structure shaped to approximate the contours of a foot,  
said laminate structure comprising a first substrate and a second  
substrate, said first substrate and said second substrates being selected  
from the group consisting of nonwoven webs, films, and combinations  
thereof, said first substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer and said  
second substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer, wherein the  
thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate is fused together with the  
thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form fused portions and  
unfused portions located between said fused portions, said unfused  
portions defining pockets containing discrete regions of particles that are  
capable of providing comfort to the foot of a user.

11. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 10, wherein said  
particles contain a fragrance, an odor absorbent, a liquid absorbent, a  
germicidal material, or mixtures thereof,

12. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 10, wherein said  
particles contain an odor absorbent.

13. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 12, wherein said  
odor absorbent includes activated carbon granules.

14. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 10, wherein said  
particles have a hardness that is greater than the hardness of said first  
substrate and said second substrate.

15. A disposable shoe liner as defined in claim 10, wherein the  
particles contained within a first group of said pockets have a packing  
density that is greater than the packing density of particles contained  
within a second group of said pockets.

16. A method for forming a disposable shoe liner comprising:  
providing a first substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer;

depositing in discrete regions onto said first substrate a functional material capable of providing comfort to the foot of a user;

placing a second substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer adjacent said first substrate such that said functional material is sandwiched between said first and said second substrates;

fusing the thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate with the thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form fused portions and unfused portions located between said fused portions, said unfused portions defining pockets containing said discrete regions of said functional material; and

shaping said substrates to approximate the contours of a foot.

17. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material contains particles.

18. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material is deposited onto said first substrate utilizing a deposition technique selected from the group consisting of vacuum screen, template, xerographic, electrostatic, print, and combinations thereof.

19. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said fusing is accomplished by a technique selected from the group consisting of thermal bonding, ultrasonic bonding, adhesive bonding, and combinations thereof.

20. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material has a hardness that is greater than the hardness of said first substrate and said second substrate.

21. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material contains a fragrance, an odor absorbent, a liquid absorbent, a germicidal material, or mixtures thereof.

22. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said functional material contains an odor absorbent.

23. A method as defined in claim 22, wherein said odor absorbent

includes activated carbon granules.

24. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein at least one of said substrates contains a material selected from the group consisting of nonwoven webs, films, and combinations thereof.

25. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein at least one of said substrates contains an elastomeric component.

26. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein the functional material contained within a first group of said pockets have a packing density that is greater than the packing density of the functional material contained within a second group of said pockets.

FOOTNOTES